FECN11 CWIS 171800
THIRTY DAY FORECAST FOR THE GREAT LAKES FOR MID-FEBRUARY TO MID-MARCH ISSUED BY THE NORTH AMERICAN ICE SERVICE ON 17 FEBRUARY 2006. THE NEXT SCHEDULED BULLETIN WILL BE ISSUED ON 1 MARCH 2006.

Lake Superior

Temperatures were above normal during the first two weeks of February. The current ice situation is still about month to five weeks later than normal in terms of freeze-up.

Forecast ice conditions from February 17th to 28th.

Temperatures will average below to much below normal for the balance of the month of February.

1. Thunder Bay –The ice will continue to thicken during the period. By the end of February, most of Thunder Bay will be covered with thin and medium lake ice. Some consolidated medium and thick lake ice will be present along the shore of the bay.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays –Consolidated thick and medium thick lake ice.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – By the end of February, a band of thin and new with some medium lake ice will extend to about 5 to 15 miles of the coast. Some new and thin lake ice will form along the southern shore of Ile Royale. Otherwise open water.
4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – Areas of new and thin lake will form along the shore and extend about 5 miles from the shore.
5. Southern Lake Superior including the Keweenaw Peninsula – New lake ice will begin to form near Duluth and around the Apostle Islands with some areas of consolidated thin lake ice around the Apostle Islands. A band of new and thin lake ice will form elsewhere within 5 to 10 miles of the coast.
6. Southern Lake Superior east of the Keweenaw Peninsula – A narrow band of new and thin lake ice will form along the coast.
7. Whitefish Bay – Consolidated medium lake ice will remain in the smaller bays. New lake ice will continue to form along the coastal area of the bay during the period. By the end of February most of the bay will be covered with thin and new lake ice with some medium lake ice.
8. From Whitefish Bay northwards to Michipicoten Bay to Nipigon Bay – Areas of new and thin lake ice will form along the coast.
9. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Open water to ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from March 1st to 15th.

Temperatures will average near to above normal for the first half of March.

1. Thunder Bay – Consolidated medium and thick lake ice will be present along the shore of the bay. Elsewhere thin and medium lake ice will remain mobile during the period.
2. Nipigon and Black Bays –Consolidated thick lake ice.
3. From Grand Marais to the entrance to Nipigon Bay – By the middle of March, the band of thin lake ice within about 10 miles of the coast will remain. Otherwise open water.

4. From Grand Marais to Duluth – Mainly open water with patches of thin lake ice near Duluth.
5. Southern Lake Superior including the Keweenaw Peninsula – Some consolidated lake ice around the Apostle Islands with patchy new and thin ice within about 10 miles of the coast.
6. Whitefish Bay – By the middle of March, little change will be observed the bay will be mostly covered with thin lake ice. Some consolidated medium and thick lake ice will be present in the smaller bays.
7. From Whitefish Bay northwards to Michipicoten Bay to Nipigon Bay – Patchy new and thin lake ice along the coast.
8. Elsewhere in Lake Superior – Open water.

Lake Michigan

Temperatures were above normal during the first half of February. The current ice situation is about a month later than normal in terms of freeze-up.

Forecast ice conditions from February 17th to 28th.

Temperatures will average below normal for the balance of the month.

1. Green Bay – Little change in terms of ice extent. Some consolidated thin and medium lake ice will form in the southern portion of the bay while the Little and Big Bay de Noc will remain consolidated. Otherwise the rest of the ice will be mostly medium and thin lake ice by the end of February.
2. Northeastern Lake Michigan – Some new and thin lake ice will expand from the ice edge in the north-eastern portion of the lake and extend to about the southern shore of Beaver Island by the end of the month. The ice northeast of Beaver Island will be mostly thin and medium lake ice. Areas of consolidated ice will form near the shore northwest of the Straits of Mackinaw.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – The coastal area of the lake will have some patches of new and thin lake ice within 1 to 3 miles of the shore mostly along the western, southern and northeastern shore. However by the last week of February most of this ice will have melted. By the end of the month mostly open water will prevail with ice free conditions in the central portion of the lake.

Forecast ice conditions from March 1st to 15th.

Temperatures will average near to above normal for the first two weeks of March.

1. Green Bay – By the middle of March, the southern half of Green Bay and the Little and Big Bay de Noc will remain consolidated with medium and thick lake ice. The rest of Green Bay will be ice covered with mobile mostly medium and some thick lake ice. Some open water areas could develop near the middle of March.
2. Northern Lake Michigan – The ice edge will begin to retreat north-eastward during the period. By the middle of March, the ice edge will be located northeast of Beaver Island. No significant changes to the consolidated ice near the Straits of Mackinaw.
3. Elsewhere in Lake Michigan – Open water with the central portion of the lake being ice free.

Lake Huron and Georgian Bay

Temperatures were above normal during the first half of February. The current ice situation is three to four weeks later than normal in terms of freeze-up.

Forecast ice conditions from February 17th to 28th.

Temperatures will average near or below normal over the last half of February.

1. North Channel – The central part of the channel will remain mostly mobile except for the western and eastern end where some more consolidated ice will form. By the end of the month mostly medium lake ice with some thick lake ice will be present.
2. St Mary's River – Consolidated with medium and thick lake ice.
3. South of Manitoulin Island westward to North-western Lake Huron - Some new and thin lake ice will continue to form along the shore during the period and extend about 5 to 15 miles from the shore.
4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw – The ice along the shore will continue to spread and reach beyond Bois Blanc Island by about 5 to 10 miles by the end of February. Some consolidated medium lake ice will form along the shore near the Straits of Mackinaw.
5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – New and thin lake ice will continue to form along the shore and spread to extend about 5 to 10 miles from the shore by the end of February.
6. Saginaw Bay – By the end of the period, consolidated thin and medium lake ice will form along the shore of the bay will the central and northern portion of the bay remains mobile with mostly medium lake ice.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron – Narrow bands of new and thin lake ice will continue to form along the southern and eastern shore and extend about 5 to 10 miles of the shore.
8. Georgian Bay – The thin and medium lake ice will continue to extend slowly south-westward into the central part of Georgian Bay. By the end of February the south-western part of Georgian Bay will remain mostly open water with some patches of new and thin ice along the south-western shore of the bay.
9. Elsewhere in Lake Huron – Open water.

Forecast ice conditions from March 1st to 15th.

Temperatures will average near or above normal for the first two weeks of March.

1. North Channel – The central part of the channel will remain mobile with medium lake ice with some signs of fracture of the consolidated ice along the edges by the middle of March.
2. St Mary's River – Consolidated with thick lake ice.
3. South of Manitoulin Island westward to North-western Lake Huron – The ice along the shore will begin to deteriorate so that by the middle of March mainly open water conditions will prevail.
4. North-western Lake Huron near the Straits of Mackinaw – The ice east of Bois Blanc Island will pull back during the period so that by the middle of March the ice edge will be near the island.

5. From north-western Lake Huron to Saginaw Bay – The ice along the shore will retreat so that only a few patches of thin lake ice within 5 miles of the shore will remain by the middle of March.
6. Saginaw Bay – Consolidated ice along the shore will begin to show signs of deterioration during the period. The medium lake ice in the central and northern part of the bay will also deteriorate so that a few areas of open water could develop by the middle of March.
7. The southern and eastern shore of Lake Huron – The ice along the shore south of Saginaw Bay will drift offshore and melt during the first week of March. The eastern shore will continue to have ice however the extent will decrease to about 5 miles by mid-March.
8. Georgian Bay –The fast ice along the northeast shore will remain unchanged through the period. The ice in the bay will become more mobile and deteriorate during the period.
9. Elsewhere in Lake Huron– Open water.

Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair

Temperatures were above normal during the first half of February. The current ice situation is six weeks later than normal in terms of freeze-up.

Forecast ice conditions from February 17th to 28th.

Temperatures will average near to below normal for the balance of the month of February.

1. Lake St Clair – New lake ice will continue to thicken to thin lake ice by the end of February. Some medium lake ice will also develop.
2. Western Basin – Ice growth will begin shortly and expand to cover parts of the basin by the end of February with new and thin lake ice.
3. The rest of Lake Erie – Open water with patchy new and thin lake ice forming along the shores later next week. By the end of February, new lake ice will extend about 1 to 4 miles from the shore. Consolidated thin lake ice in Long Point Bay and Sandusky Bay during the period.

Forecast ice conditions from March 1st to 15th.

Temperatures will average near or above normal for the first two weeks of March.

1. Lake St Clair – Areas of open water will begin to form during the first week. By the middle of March mainly open water conditions will prevail.
2. Western Basin – Clearing will begin in the western portion of the basin so that by the end of the first week of March mainly open water conditions will prevail throughout the basin.
3. The rest of Lake Erie – Mostly open water will prevail during the first week of March.

Lake Ontario

Temperatures were above normal during the first half of February. The current ice situation is about six weeks later than normal in terms of freeze-up.

Forecast ice conditions from February 17th to 28th.

Temperatures will be near or below normal for the rest of the month of February.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – A few patches of new and thin lake ice will form over the extreme northeastern portion. By the end of February, some new and thin lake ice areas will extend about 5 to 10 miles of the shore east of the Bay of Quinte.
2. Bay of Quinte – Consolidated medium lake.
3. St Lawrence River – Some new and thin lake ice will form during the period with consolidated medium lake ice around the islands in the river.
4. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Isolated patches of new and thin lake ice will form within 1 to 4 miles of the shore during the period. Further off-shore, conditions will be mostly open water with ice free in the central portion of the lake.

Forecast ice conditions from March 1st to 15th.

Temperatures will average near normal for the first part of March.

1. Northeastern Lake Ontario – A general deterioration of the ice will begin during the first half of March. By the middle of the month only patches of consolidated medium lake ice in the smaller bays will remain in the area.
2. Bay of Quinte – Consolidated medium to thick lake ice will begin to show signs of deterioration.
3. St Lawrence River – The thin and new lake ice with consolidated medium lake ice around the islands in the river will begin to deteriorate and create significant areas of open water. By the middle of March only the consolidated ice around the islands will remain with the remainder of the river being mainly open water.
4. Elsewhere in Lake Ontario – Mainly open water along the shore with ice free conditions in the central part of the lake.

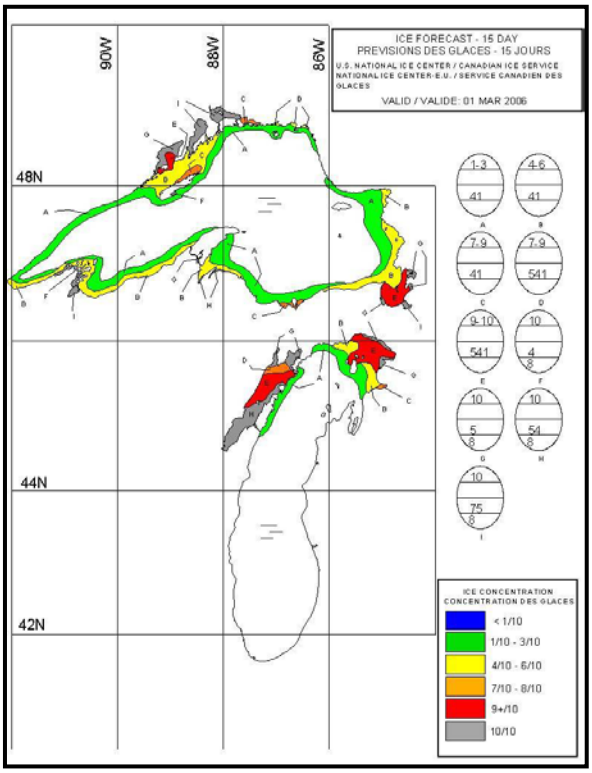

Figure 1: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 1 March 2006.

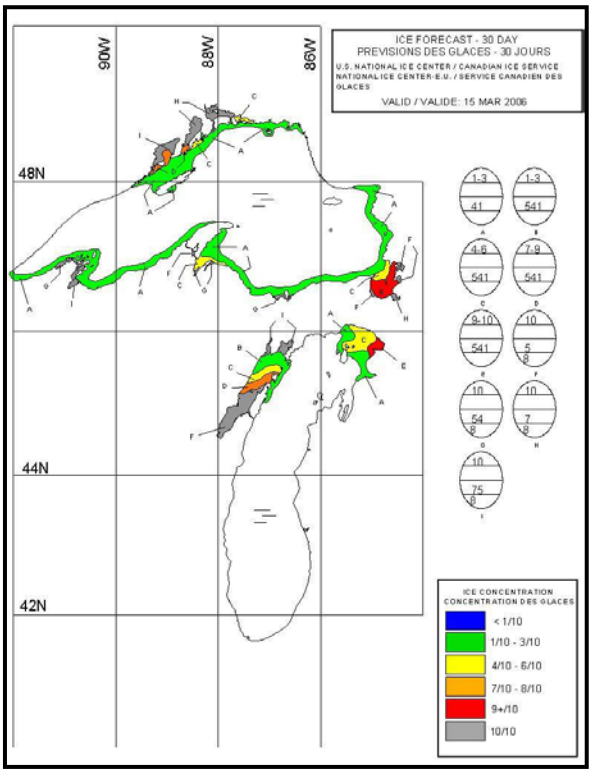

Figure 2: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 15 March 2006.

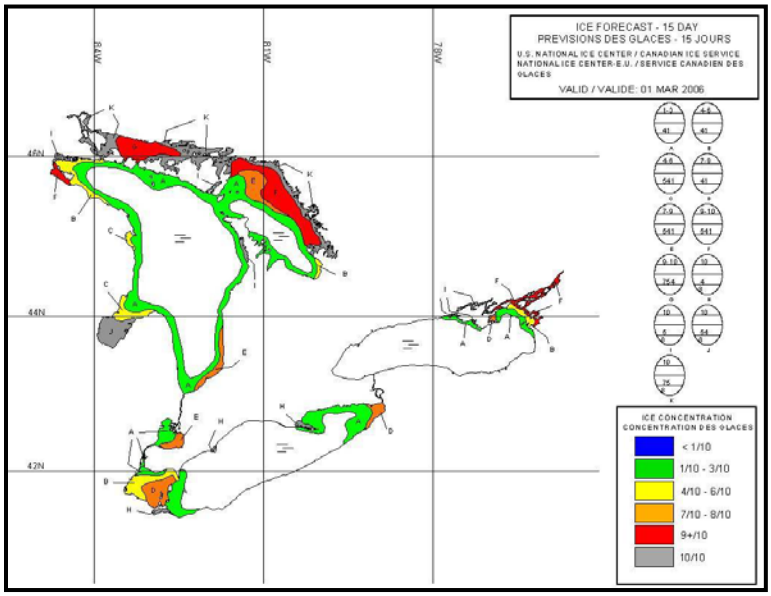

Figure 3: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 1 March 2006.

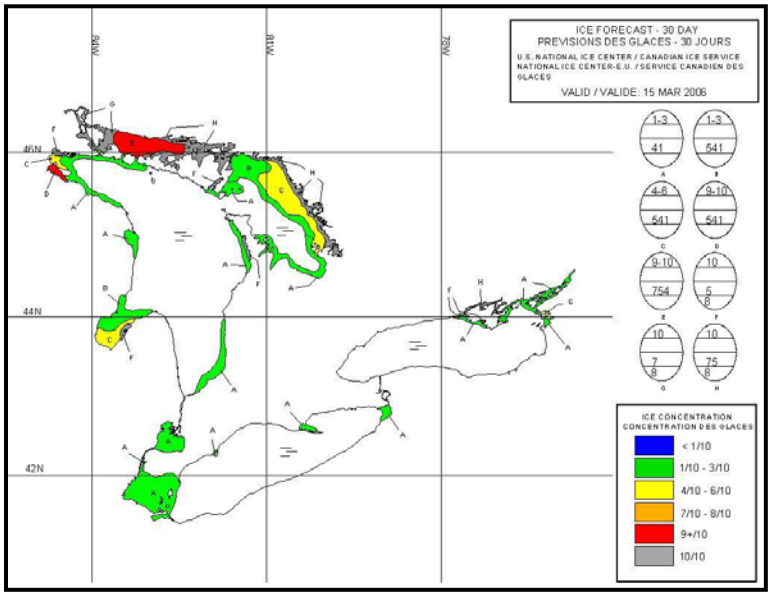

Figure 4: Ice forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 15 March 2006.

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